

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6725**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 242

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 28, 2011

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Protection Order Card Program.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Breaux

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
X FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill authorizes the Attorney General to establish a Protection Order Card Program to provide a person protected by a protection order with a wallet-sized card containing information relating to the protection order.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2012.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** Under the bill, the Attorney General is authorized to establish a protection order card program. Provided the Attorney General decides to implement the program, workload will increase to process electronic and U.S. mail applications, enter into agreements with appropriate persons in each county to ensure the protection order card program is available to all state residents, and advertise the program in each county.

The Attorney General reports the estimated costs for the program to be between \$50,000 and \$75,000 per year. The Attorney General also reports not requiring additional start-up costs for the program as most of the necessary equipment for the protection card program is already available. The number of cards issued in the state will depend on the number of individuals with protection orders that will request a protection order card. The Attorney General estimates the number of requests for a protection order card to be between 10,000 and 15,000 per year.

Currently, the state of Montana operates a protection order card program. The Montana Department of Justice received grant funding under the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which provided Montana a \$250,000 grant to finance the program's start-up costs. These costs included creating Hope Card printers, data registry, and program coordination in Montana's 56 counties and tribal councils. Provided the

Indiana Attorney General successfully applies for VAWA grant funding, net state expenditures will be reduced.

*Additional Information:* Start-up costs for the Montana Hope Card program were reported to be \$250,000. The cost was provided from VAWA grant funding, so no Montana state dollars were expended on the program. The Montana Hope Card program offers cards at no cost to the applicant. The Montana Department of Justice, Office of Victim Services, reports Hope Cards cost \$1.00 per card to make, and the Montana Department of Justice estimates spending approximately \$1,000 per year on Hope Cards in the first year of implementation. The Montana Department of Justice estimates annual recurring expenditures (not start-up costs) for the program to be \$5,000 per year.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Office of the Attorney General.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** Joan Eliel, Montana Department of Justice, (406) 444-5512; Michelle Bumgarner, Office of the Attorney General.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.